

Chapter 2

Recommended Thoroughfare Plan

Intent of the Thoroughfare Plan

Transportation is the backbone of a regions economic vitality. Without an adequate transportation system people cannot easily reach their intended destination, goods cannot be delivered to the market in a cost effective manner, and investors may look to invest in better served areas. Recent trends such as regional economies, “just in time” delivery, increased automobile ownership, and increased migration away from the central cities and towns are taxing our existing transportation system and requiring that we put move emphasis on planning for our transportation future.

A thoroughfare plan study identifies existing and future deficiencies in the transportation system, as well as uncovers the need for new facilities (Please see Figure 2). The thoroughfare plan also provides a representation of the existing highway system by functional use. This use can be characterized as a part of the major or minor thoroughfares plus any new facilities that are needed. A full description of these various systems and their subsystems is given in Appendix A.

This chapter presents the thoroughfare plan recommendations (Please see Figure 3). It is the goal of this study that the recommended plan set forth a transportation system that will serve the anticipated traffic and land development needs for the Towns of Banner Elk and Beech Mountain. The primary objective of this plan is to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety by eliminating both existing and projected deficiencies in the thoroughfare system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Major Thoroughfares

These are facilities that provide for the expeditious movement of high volumes of traffic within and through the urban area.

NC 184 Alternate

- **Project Recommendation:** It is recommended that a two-lane facility on new location with limited control of access be constructed. In anticipation of future widening, right-of-way should be reserved for a multi-lane facility. The alternative will serve to relieve congestion on NC 184 (Shawneehaw Road) and provide easier access to the westside of town. The project will begin at NC 184, just north of SR 1341 (Banner Road) and terminate at NC 194 (Main Street) across from Hilldrop Way Road.
- **Transportation Demand:** The NC 184 Alternate will serve to relieve traffic on NC 184 (Shawneehaw Road) and provide direct access to the westside of town. The alternate will primarily serve traffic traveling west on NC 194 from NC 184 and residents living west of Hilltop Way Road. The new facility will give local traffic better access to Lees McRae College and to the businesses located in the center of town.